

PAYING THE PENSIONS.

First Day of the Quarterly Payment—A Motley Crowd Assembled Before the Lark Stirred—The Personnel of the

Pensioners—Fifty Thousand Dollars Distributed and More to Come.
At the early hour of five o'clock yesterday morning the new Pension Agent, Mr. Elias H. Dutcher, was at his post, ready to dispense the allowance made by Congress to pensioners not only of the late war, but from the Revolution of '76, the war of 1812, the Black Hawk war, &c. The clerk had not yet arisen when the motley crowd filled the space leading to Mr. Dutcher's office, each one eager to be first in receiving his or her check. The services of a police officer had to be called into requisition to keep the parties in proper alignment, otherwise

There might have been some cases where the pension agent or his assistants could perform any duties whatever.

Those who called so early were mainly the ones who stopped in on the way to their daily toll to receive the quarterly allotment of \$24.36 or \$42, as the case might be. These crucial men had no time to wait and made haste to prepare their vouchers, passed them over to the agent, received their checks and Mr. Dutcher's endorsement and went on their way rejoicing. These soldier mechanics could not afford to lose one-quarter or half a day for a line to reach the desk for their pensions, and having obtained their checks they can

body. Late in the day a crowd of soldiers' wives appeared on the scene, and as each one was so identified by two or three of the superintendents, the men were allowed to go to the comfortable apartments of female friends, who rolled up in the comfortable blankets which filled the court yard of the Custom House to a very uncomfortable extent.

AMONG THE PENSIONERS

could be noticed men who had received their first wounds at Gauley, at the battle of Cheat, at Hooker's battles at West Point and Williamsburg, or lost a limb at Little Bighorn at Gaines' Farm, have been pensioned for. But the pensioners were not alone. Minnie and her mother, the children and a crowd of Petersburg. Mayhaps some of the poor fellows were of the adventurous band proceeding Shanghai, and others were of the band of desperadoes who valiantly under Grant at Fort Hudson and Vicksburg, or operated in the Fatch country with Canby

At all events the applicants for pensions each looked like a hero, no matter where he distinguished himself, and richly deserved the pittance accorded him by a benign government.

Mr. Dutcher had disbarred in the neighborhood of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, and he was compelled to close his doors on a waiting crowd of disappointed applicants for fifteen hours. The same kind of work will occupy to-day, and probably four or five more to come, and if the weather holds out good the pensioners will not be able to leave the city until the middle of the week, being forced to wait in the open yard for their turn of payment to arrive.

Mr. Dutcher is taking hold of his new position with the same dispatch and business with which he has conducted his former business, and as much precision and rapidity as if he had been ac-

He is a fit successor of Colonel Dwyer, and will become very popular with those who come in contact with him officially. The new Pension Agent has not made any new appointments in his office since the brother of the late incumbent, James M. Dutcher has resigned during yesterday's payments.

PUGILISM.

Price Fight Between Kibridge and Richardson.

[From Bell's Life in London, Nov. 16.]

For some time past the sporting houses in Manchester and Salford, which still cling to a difficult love in the pursuit of the "manly art," have been noticed to be more than usually frequented, the cause being that a pugilistic encounter was on the tapis between these gars. The articles for the encounter stated that Hugh Kibridge, of Bradford, Yorkshire, and George Richardson, alias Tate, of Manchester, engaged to fight at catch weight for £10 a side, over ten and under thirty miles from Manchester. The spot selected, after one "attempt," is familiarly known to the "oldest inhabitant" as the "Mile Field," and is situated on the Salford side of the River Irwell, contiguous to the Manchester Race course, about four miles from the city.

At the appointed hour the principals put in an appearance, and the usual ropes and stakes having been dispensed with, the spectators, who numbered about three hundred, formed a ring. The fight began a little warmer than the previous night, but a little warmth was infused into the air by the almost perpendicular rays of a late forenoon sun. The fight was a close one, and Kilbride looked in the best trim, an unsatisfactory slowness being observable about Richardson, which was a decided favor for the fight, as he was somewhat "blooming alone." From beginning to end Kilbride had the best of the fight, his visitations being to the head of his opponent, and he was somewhat crumpled, the dexter fin of the hawk paying unpleasant attention to Richardson's left eye. Richardson fought principally at Kilbride's body, on the left side, and he was not very successful, as the pile drivers, which made the Yorkshireman anything but comfortable about the internal works, were not very effective. The fight was a close one, (first blood) and odds of 8 to 4 were laid on him. When the eighth round had terminated the fight was called off, and the referee, who was watched by all present, *sawed his head* being the individual care at the moment. The police arrived, and the fight was consequently at an end.

borough Court, and on the evidence of Detectives Harrington and Seal, Kilbride and Richardson were bound over in two hundred dollars each and themselves in £20 each, and Mills, Skye and Etchells (the latter denying that he was present) in two hundred dollars each and themselves in £10 each.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION.

Organisation of the Committee to Amend the Constitution.

ALBANY, Dec. 4, 1874.

The Commission to propose amendments to the constitution met in the Common Council Chamber at ten o'clock this morning, and was called to order by Mr. G. Hilton Scribner, Secretary of State. Prayer was made by Rev. Dr. Clark.

The roll was called and all the members of the Commission except Messrs. Brooks, Kernan and Howland answered. The order of office was announced by Mr. Scribner, and Mr. Stone, who then announced that his offices were terminated and expressed his wishes for successful action on the part of the Commission.

Mr. LEAVENWORTH moved that Mr. Lucius Robinson be chosen temporary Chairman, which was agreed to, and Mr. Robinson on taking the chair briefly addressed the Commission.

Mr. Hiram Watkins was then chosen temporary Secretary.

On motion of WILLIAM CASSEY the Commission took a recess, in order to consult as to a permanent organization.

On being called to order Robert H. Pruyn, of Albany, was chosen permanent President, and Hiram Calkins, of New York, Clerk.

Mr. BRADLEY moved that one copy of "Huang's American Constitution," be ordered and procured for each member of the Commission and the Clerk.

It was finally made the duty of a committee to learn the cost of the books.

Mr. CASSEY moved that the Commission take a recess until three o'clock P. M.

Mr. LAYTON moved that the best to remain in session to complete the preliminaries, and Mr. CASSEY withdrew his motion.

Mr. LAYTON and Mr. GRACEY the law creating the Commission was then read.

After the transaction of some unimportant business the Commission adjourned until to-morrow morning.

EXPLOSION IN CHINA.

A Geographical Mystery Made Clear—French Travel Tracing the Great River Mekong.

A geographical mystery of Asia has been cleared up, and an illusion of commerce dissipated, by the explorations of some French travellers.

M. Louis de Carné started in the summer of 1896 from Saigon, in French Cochin-China, to track the great river of Cambodia, the Mekong, to its sources. The hope of the quest was of a world of fact was that, if the great Mekong, issuing from the Salween and Meinam, and the Tonquin, might offer an available water-road through Laos and Siam to the bank of China, and give to the Cochin-China delta which is held by France the commerce of a second Nile or Ganges.

But the Mekong, which the Frenchmen traced at the cost of terrible hardships and great sacrifice of valuable life, is an "impassable" river, a mere "waterfall" of rapids and shoals, and having a current against which nothing could be navigated. The discovery, purchased at the cost of blood and treasure, was published by M. de Carné, who was the leader of the expedition, in a book which has just been published, takes away half the value of Cochin-China.

Now England's turn to find out whether the great streams which have their *embouchure* at Bangkok and Monimou offer any better chance of a back way to the Yank-see-Kiang.